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Park & Rec Commission Minutes 10-10-06

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:15 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, October 10, 2006.

Members in attendance included: Chairman, Joe Carabello, Leslie Mayer and Donald Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Jeanne Leary, Elizabeth Coyne, Josephine Burton, Roly Chaput, David Warner, Laura Weiner and David Levy.

Special Event Approvals

Arlington 200th – June 1, 2007

Mr. Chaput explained the event to the Commission. The Commission expressed concern about a potential conflict with the high school sport schedule. Mr. Connelly stated that he would work with Mr. Chaput and the high school to find an appropriate area for event set-up.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the request with the condition that the set-up time is coordinated through the Recreation Department so not to interfere with the high school schedule. Motion seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of September 12, 2006. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve, Ms. Campbell seconded, minutes approved 3-0.

Buzzell Field

Mr. Warner from Larson Associates reviewed the existing conditions with the Commission. Mr. Warner reviewed the following:

- Drainage improvements and current top soil conditions
- Connecting the pathways behind the backstop
- Replacing portions of the existing benches
- The orientation of the basketball court and the current man hole cover concerns
- Fencing improvements behind second field and along Summer Street
- Improvements to the Memorial including fencing and planting. (Mr. Connelly will contact the Veterans agent to discuss memorial)
- Potential contractor access points

The Commission discussed the project with Mr. Warner. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Warner will set-up a public hearing date.

Mr. Warner will continue to finalize the plans and meet again with the Commission at their November meeting

Pond Lane Affordable Housing – Affordable Housing

Laura Weiner and David Levy of Arlington Affordable Housing reviewed their proposal to place 5-8 affordable housing units on existing parkland near Spy Pond Park. Ms. Weiner reviewed the parcels with the Commission stating that one was under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission and the other was Town of Arlington. Mr. Carabello indicated he thought both parcels were under Park Commission jurisdiction and would like confirmation to that effect. Mr. Levy further explained the proposal to combine both parcels of land into the project. The plan would be to develop affordable housing on one and develop the other for more accessible passive recreation. The Commission discussed the benefits of the parking area on one of the parcels for boat trailers and over flow parking.

Mr. Vitters stated that he was very hesitant to transfer park land and would have to be convinced of the project benefits. Mr. Carabello agreed and again asked for clarification on the ownership of the two parcels of land. Mr. Vitters indicated that there was a plan to place a picnic area on one of the parcels and will try to locate the original plans. Mr. Levy commented that he did meet with the Friends of Spy Pond and Open Space. Mr. Carabello asked if any other towns have transferred parkland for affordable housing. The Commission discussed the procedure of transferring land. Mr. Carabello stated that he was concerned that future recreational uses may not be apparent at this time. Mr. Carabello shared the Turkey Hill example.

Ms. Weiner and Mr. Levy will continue to look into the parcels and present the Commission with more detailed plans at a future meeting.

Rink Update – Loitering Policy and Closing Procedures

Mr. Connelly shared the results of his finding with the Committee regarding ice hours rented at other rinks and revenue generated from hours rented after 10 PM. Mr. Connelly reported a violation in the loitering policy by the Thursday night group and related actions taken by his department.

The Commission discussed the finding with representatives from the Summer Street Association. Mr. Connelly stated that staff would continue to enforce the current loitering policy whenever violations occurred.

Capital Plan

Mr. Carabello asked for a current balance in the park beautification fund. Mr. Connelly will provide this for the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the new field fees and the procedure for collection. Mr. Connelly will clarify the current rates for all user groups for the Commission.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current plan, as he understood it. Mr. Vitters reviewed the plan he had on file. The Commission discussed both plans and the current conditions of the facilities.

Mr. Vitters stated that there are three items that need to be identified:

1. What can the town afford to spend annually on fields and recreational facilities?
2. How are the projects prioritized?
3. Confirmation of actual budget numbers for the projects.

The Commission discussed the current plan starting with FY 08. Ms. Mayer questioned the placement of Spy Pond Tennis Courts ahead of Wellington Courts and Playground. Ms. Mayer also reminded the Commission that the Stratton School representatives were told last year that funds for the Stratton School playground and field would be requested in FY 08.

The Commission discussed the importance of using the feasibility study money for planning next year's projects well ahead of the capital request deadline.

Mr. Connelly stated that Leonard Design would be looking at next years projects and establishing accurate pricing. Ms. Mayer asked that Leonard Design meet with the neighborhood groups for Summer Street and Stratton prior to completing his estimates.

The Commission agreed on the following requests:

FY – 08 – Pheasant Ave Playground and Park, Wellington Park, Summer Street Playground, Thorndike Parking, Replace Water Boiler

FY – 09 – Spy Pond Tennis, Florence Tot Lot, Summer Street Parking Lot Expansion, Rink Slab and Boards

FY-10 – Hibbert Street Park, Reservoir Beach, North Union Spray Pool, Glycol Pump

FY-11 – Hurd Field Phase 1, Poets Corner Fields, Robbins Farm Field and Basketball, North Union Basketball, Rink Compressor

FY-12 – Hurd Field Phase 2, Poets Corner Courts, Turkey Hill

Feasibility Study Money – FY 09-FY12 - \$40,000

Ms Mayer motioned to approve the above mentioned requests, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Committee Updates

Open Space

Ms. Mayer explained that the Open Space Committee was holding a meeting on 11/6 for members of friends and neighborhood groups to review maintenance and care procedures for the parks and recreational areas.

Ms. Mayer reviewed the open space questions that are requested to appear in the Vision 20/20 questionnaire.

Turkey Hill

Ms. Mayer reviewed the positive feedback received from a user of the Turkey Hill recreational area

Fields

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current renovation projects including: Thompson Playground, Bishop School, Menotomy Rocks Park, Spy Pond and Waldo/Locke

Spy Pond Coyote

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from the Friends of Spy Pond to place a Coyote at the pond near the Linwood Circle. Mr. Connelly stated that the Friends would be responsible for the expense of replacing the coyote and for moving it on a regular basis. Mr. Connelly will ask the Friends to write a notice to appear in the local paper making people aware of the program.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the pilot program; Mr. Vitters seconded the motion and approved 3-0.

Other

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from Friends of Robbins Farm to hold a Field Day on Saturday, October 14th. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 3-0.

The Summer Street Association asked to say a few words. Ms. Leary thanked the Commission and Mr. Connelly for continuing to work with the neighbors on the loitering policy and the trash around the rink. Ms. Leary discussed ways to get an accurate abutters list with Mr. Connelly. Ms. Leary stated that the end of year meeting on the Summer Street project would be by November 14, 2006.

Ms. Mayer motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM

Respectively Submitted by:

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation